

November 14, 2007

### **Congressman Akin Decries Attempts to Load Defense Authorization with Hate Crimes Legislation**

Washington, DC - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), the ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee and conferee on the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), has signed a letter to the Armed Services Committee Chairmen stating opposition to including hate crime legislation in the authorization.

A conference version of NDAA is presently being worked on by conferees. The letter notes that the controversial hate crimes legislation was added to the authorization without a single hearing or Committee markup.

The letter states, "the inclusion of this provision will not only politicize the annual defense bill for years to come, it would also fail to provide the American people the robust debate they have asked of their elected officials.. To force this contentious legislation into the Defense Authorization conference report is a disservice to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines on the front lines in this war against terror."

"As a conferee, I cannot support the addition of such politically charged and extraneous provision in the defense authorization bill," Akin. "This is just another example of how the majority is playing politics with our military and the war against terror."

"Along with attempts to micromanage the war on terror by putting timelines and other demands in the Iraq War supplemental, the majority is more interested in scoring political points than producing legislation that helps our troops and having it signed by the President," said Akin.